

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An expression cassette ~~containing~~ comprising an adenoviral VA1 ~~promoter gene~~ gene and a ~~construct~~ nucleic acid encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule, wherein the ~~construct is operatively linked to the~~ adenoviral VA1 ~~promoter gene comprises the~~ adenoviral VA1 promoter and a coding sequence for the VA1 RNA, wherein the nucleic acid is inserted within the adenoviral VA1 coding sequence, wherein the interfering RNAi molecule is a substrate for mammalian Dicer and wherein the construct nucleic acid encoding the RNAi molecule encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a precursor microRNA (precursor miRNA) and wherein upon expression the RNAi molecule is a substrate for Dicer.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding ~~construct~~ nucleic acid is contained within a non-essential stem region of the promoter.

Claim 3 (original): The expression cassette of claim 2, wherein the non-essential stem region contains a BstEII site.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding ~~construct~~ nucleic acid comprises a loop containing from about 4 to about 9 bases.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the loop contains ~~about~~ 8 bases.

Claims 7-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A mammalian cell into which has been introduced a construct encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule operatively linked to an adenoviral VA1 promoter an expression cassette comprising an adenoviral VA1 gene and a nucleic acid encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule, wherein the adenoviral VA1 gene comprises the adenoviral VA1 promoter and a coding sequence for the VA1 RNA, wherein the nucleic acid is inserted within the adenoviral VA1 coding sequence, wherein the ~~RNAi molecule is a substrate for mammalian Dicer~~ and wherein the construct nucleic acid encoding the RNAi molecule encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a precursor microRNA (precursor miRNA) and wherein upon expression the RNAi molecule is a substrate for Dicer.

Claim 12 (original): The mammalian cell of claim 11, wherein the mammalian cell is a primary cell.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding ~~construct is a construct encoding~~ nucleic acid encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA).

Claim 14 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding ~~construct is a construct encoding~~ nucleic acid encodes a precursor microRNA (miRNA).

Claim 15 (currently amended): The mammalian cell line of claim 11, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding ~~construct is a construct encoding~~ nucleic acid encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA).

Claim 16 (currently amended): The mammalian cell line of claim 11, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding ~~construct is a construct encoding~~ nucleic acid encodes a precursor miRNA.